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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 134
TO WINSTON LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER
ZEM

UNCLAS WH29867 SECTION THREE

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TOHAK 134

OTHER INDOCHINA

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FIERCE GROUND FIGHTING THRUOUT SVN TAPERED OFF SAT., BUT ARVN
REPORTED VC FORCES ON MOVE IN SAIGON AREA SUN. US BOMBERS CONTINUED
TO POUND NVN SUPPLY LINES FOR 4TH STRAIGHT DAY... NBC NOTED
NVA SHELLINGS THRUOUT SVN AND CONTINUING B52 RAIDS SAT.... IN THE
1ST OF A SERIES ON THE AIR WAR, THE POST W/P. 1 SUNDAY FEATURE
RELATES THE DISLOCATION AND DESPAIR CAUSED TO CIVILIANS BY THE
CRUEL AND DIFFICULT DECISION TO USE BOMBS RATHER THAN TROOPS.
GETLER POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SVN POLS AND SPECIALISTS ARE
LESS EXERCISED OVER THE BOMBING THAN US OBSERVERS. THEY FEEL IT
HAS NOT DEALT AN IRREVERSIBLE BLOW TO SVN'S FUTURE AND THEY FEEL
IT HAS TURNED THE TIDE IN SEVERAL MAJOR BATTLES.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

KEY SECTIONS OF US FORCES IN SVN AND 7TH AF'S OPERATIONAL

COMPONENTS No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-1-8-7

AP ANALYSIS LEADS: "A PICTURE HAS NOW EMERGED OF HOW THE US AND ITS ALLIES WILL APPLY RN'S DOCTRINE OF 'NEGOTIATION NOT CONFRONTATION' W/THE USSR IN '73." THEY ARE TAKING ON DOUBLE JOB, SAYS AP, IN MAINTAINING THEIR OWN STRENGTH AGAINST POPULAR PRESSURE TO CUT MILITARY SPENDING, AND AT SAME TIME OF TRYING TO EDGE USSR TOWARD PROVIDING ORDINARY EUROPEANS W/LESS-THREATENING MILITARY FORCES COMBINED W/MORE SECURITY, FREEDOM AND COOPERATION. ATLANTIC ALLIES WILL INSIST MOSCOW AGREE TO CONSIDER "CONFIDENCE-BUILDING" MEASURES AT CESC, W/MOST IMPORTANT ONE BEING AGREEMENT TO NOTIFY ONE ANOTHER IN ADVANCE OF BIG TROOP MOVEMENTS. WEST WILL ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR IF SOVIETS WANT ECONOMIC AID FROM WEST, THEY WILL HAVE TO GIVE SOMETHING IN EXCHANGE.

THE TRIB REPORTS THAT EUROPE MOVED TOWARD EASIER E-W RELATIONS ON 3 FRONTS FRI W/NATO AGREEING TO BACK UN MEMBERSHIP FOR THE GERMANIES AND ANNOUNCING PLANS TO RECOGNIZE THE EAST, THUS ENDING ITS 27-YEAR DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION. AND SALT IS MOVING "SO SWIFTLY" THAT PRE-XMAS ACCORD ON A BODY TO SUPERVISE SALT I SEEMS LIKELY. FINALLY, THE TRIB REPORTS FROM HELSINKI THAT "THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE CONTINUES AFTER 3 WEEKS" TO RULE THE CESC PREP. TALKS.

NOYES IS HIGHLY PESSIMISTIC THAT CESC WILL DO ANYTHING TO FULFILL WESTERN HOPES FOR A RELAXATION OF LIFE IN RIGIDLY CONTROL E. EUROPE. WHAT THE WEST SEES AS THAW SEEMS LIKELY TO DO LITTLE TO CHANGE THE DEEP FREEZE IN WHICH E. EUROPEANS LIVE.....THE SUN TELLS HOW E. GERMANY HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES DAMPENING HOPES THAT POLITICAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GERMANIES WOULD IMPROVE PERSONAL RELATIONS AS WELL....STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY OFFICERS FOUND A EAVESDROPPING RADIO TRANSMITTER SECRETLY PLACED IN THE HEEL OF A SHOE WORN BY A SENIOR US DIPLOMAT IN A E. EUROPEAN COUNTRY. AT ANOTHER US EMBASSY IN E. EUROPE, THEY LOCATED A SPY RADIO HIDDEN IN A SEEMINGLY INNOCENT BINDER HOLDING CURTAIN SAMPLES. AP'S GULICK NOTES THESE ARE THE FIRST PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF SUCH BUGGING OF U.S. MISSIONS OVERSEAS IN RECENT YEARS.

SPLIT BETWEEN THE US AND WEST EUROPE IS REFLECTED IN HIS PLANS FOR A SPRING VISIT TO THE CONTINENT. HARSCH NOTES THAT "THERE ARE ANXIOUS PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES WHO THINK THIS MAY BE THE MOST DANGEROUS MOMENT FOR THE WEST SINCE HITLER'S LUFTWAFFE ATTACKED BRITAIN." W. EUROPEANS FEAR THEIR INTERESTS MIGHT SOME DAY BE SPENT BY THE US FOR A CLOSER DEAL W/USSR. UNLESS THERE'S REVERSAL OF THAT FEAR, OF THE DAMAGE DONE BY CLOSER US-USSR RELATIONS AND BY TURNING CONNALLY "LOOSE", HARSCH FEELS "EUROPE JUST MIGHT DECIDE THAT IT BETTER FOLLOW THE US EXAMPLE AND MAKE ITS OWN DEAL W/RUSSIA.

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CBS NOTED HOW BARRACKS AT A US BASE IN W. GERMANY BURNED W/ONLY BELATED CONCERN SHOWN BY LOCAL FIREMEN WHO LAST YEAR WERE HARASSED BY GI'S DURING A SIMILAR FIRE ON THE BASE. REPORTER SHEAHAN THEN W/NEGATIVE REPORT ON "AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN ARMY" WHICH RN HAS PLEDGED TO KEEP THERE TIL MBFR PROGRESS. GI'S W/LITTLE TO DO; WAR GAMES ARE TO RELIEVE BOREDOM. MOST EARNEST PROBLEM IS TO KEEP OLD EQUIPMENT GOING. REPORTER SAID THE TROOPS ARE THERE FOR SAKE OF NUMBERS ONLY AS IT'D TAKE LOTS OF MONEY TO PROPERLY EQUIP THEM AND FUNDS OF THAT SIZE AREN'T AVAILABLE FOR AN ARMY WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE NO LONGER EXISTS.

NSC STAFFER SONNENFELDT'S DESCRIPTION OF "A TOUGH AND BUSINESSLIKE" US POLICY TOWARD W. EUROPE IS SEEN IN POST STORY AS IN CONTRAST W/APPROACH OF MCCLOY, BALL AND SCHAEZEL. SPEAKING AT CONFERENCE ON EUR-US RELATIONS, SONNENFELDT SAID THE US PUBLIC WANTS THE DEFICIT CORRECTED AND WHILE SOME TRADE ISSUES MAY BE MINOR ONES, TAKEN TOGETHER THEY ADD UP TO CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL PRESSURE. THE POST SAYS "EXPRESSIONS OF FEAR, THAT THE ADMIN WOULD REVERT TO THE 'TABLE-SOMETHING' TACTICS OF CONNALLY KEPT RECURRING AT THE CONF."

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MALRAUX TELLS SULZBERGER THAT EUROPE AS A UNITED GROUP DOESN'T EXIST AND THUS THE REGION IS LOSING ITS COMPETITION W/US AND USSR. PERHAPS JAPAN'S ECONOMIC UPSURGE CAN BE THE GALVANIZING EFFECT WHICH MALRAUX FEELS IS NEEDED FROM A NON-EUROPEAN THREAT.

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